

St. Joseph School Executive Board Meeting Minutes
November 9th, 2021 6:00 pm

Opening Prayer:

Led by Father Ed

Attendance:

Fr. Ed Anderson, Jerry VanDyke, Aaron Hendricks, Emily Hagen, Jeremy Peterson, Aleesha Drost, Laura Smith, Fr. Adam Laski arrived at 6:35, Shannon Holthaus arrived at 6:30 pm

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Ed responded that nothing was crucial at this time for the group.

School Reports:

Covid Update:

Jerry reported that a vaccine clinic had been arranged for Friday November 12th school vaccine clinic. 32 students had signed up to participate at the time of this meeting. Jerry also shared that the Covid Precautions parent group met weekly to discuss health and safety aspects related to the school. They group is looking to go into a mask optional choice in January. The details of this plan were still being developed by this group.

Development/Fundraising:

Emily gave a Gala update. At the point of the meeting, around \$60,000 had been raised prior to expenses. Initial survey data suggested that the new Gala format was well received.

Emily reported that the Last Core Team met to discuss putting a strategic plan together. At the January meeting, it is expected that the board would hear more about details of this plan.

Emily shared that she advocates for a proposal for an annual fund separate from the fundraising efforts. This would be focused on having financial contributions from alumni and donors, not necessarily current St. Joe's families. One idea was a possible day of the week of giving in May to begin contributing to this.

Public Relations:

Emily reported that the Soles for Souls event just finished and she was looking to get some public publicity on social media to discuss its success. Another idea proposed by the core team was to have a monthly video posted on social media/website to promote the benefits of a faith based education at St. Joseph school.

Jerry reported that 3 7th graders and 3 8th graders would be volunteering with Jerry and Angela Delf at the We Share Food pantry later that week.

Tree Fundraiser

Aaron reported that Saturday, November 13th St. Joseph parent volunteers would be cutting and hauling trees to the former Rainbow parking lot for the Christmas tree fundraiser. In the past this has raised around \$20,000 per year for the school but was getting harder to run as sourcing trees might be more difficult in the near future.

Finance:

Aaron updated project of a minimum tuition for the 22-23 school year to be at \$3,300. This was a number proposed by the Executive Board in a previous meeting and represents a \$300 increase from the current year's minimum tuition. The enrollment target in general was to ideally have about 17-18 students per level in

grades 4K-8th. From current enrollment data, the numbers are lower than this tend bo by in the 5th-8th grades. Some discussion of how to best retain older students at St. Joseph was discussed.

Aaron also broke down how 80% of the budget is related to staff salaries/benefits. He shared about 30% of the budget for the school and came directly from the church and that this is a problem in that overall church tithings have decreased over the last few years. It was also mentioned that a disproportionate number of students at the school are from families that are parishioners of Dobie (46 students from Dobie compared to 39 from St. Joseph Church). Some discussion of how we can have a campaign at Dobie to discuss how many kids from this church go to St. Joseph and how we can use the school to help grow the parishes. Fr. Ed mentioned that the number of parishoners at all cluster churches has been on the decline.

All Week 4K Discussion

Shannon Holthaus met with the group to discuss the idea that had been presented to have 5 day a week all day 4K in the future. This had been brought up as something that might be beneficial to St. Joseph families. Shannon shared that one pro of this would be that it might minimally help enrollment. Numerous hesitations were presented including that it was likely too much structured learning time for 4K kids in a week and that most are very tired even after 3 days. She discussed that it was important that the 4K class was not just a daycare and that extending it to 5 days would just spread out the curriculum more. Just adding more structure learning was not really going to be helpful for the students at this age. If it was run, it might be better if a separate entity was working a daycare provider for the second half of the days, but if that was the case then this daycare aspect needed to not be in the same classroom space where more structured learning guidelines were established with kids. As well, she worried that five day a week 4K may result in teacher burn out. It also was commented that extending 4K to five days likely would not greatly impact enrollment since there was already 16 students and going much bigger than this would require hiring another teacher at a cost to the school. It was noted that expanding 4K to five full days a week likely would more be as a service to our school families than as something that would help increase school enrollment. Shannon ended that it would be helpful to survey 3k parents as well on their thoughts. Aaron contributed that 4K all day is a voucher option.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was planned for December 14, 2021 and would just be an informal Christmas party gathering of all school/church committees. A January 11th, 2022 6:00 pm meeting was the next official gathering of the Executive Board.

Closing Prayer:

Fr. Adam closed the meeting with a prayer.

Adjournment: